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LB 305

he said they only have five. So I only see this affecting maybe the larger school districts in the state. And I think...I also agree, Senator Bourne, with some of your remarks that you made about teacher salaries, because I did a survey. I used Senator Thompson's survey. And I...one of the questions I asked, in fact, the first question I asked on the survey; would you as patrons of my district, would you support a half-cent, I used a half-cent rather than a quarter-cent to what's in LB 305, I said would you support a half-cent sales tax for teachers. And the response was over 50 percent, which I...I about, you know, fell off my chair, because I...my district, I was surprised at that. But they also put a caveat on it, is, we want it for teachers, we don't want it for administrators. So I think there is, in my area, the districts that I represent, there is a...people want, or my patrons want a...they see teachers being underpaid, but they don't want the money to go for administrators. So unless Senator Bourne wants to make some statements, I simply give my time back.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne? Senator Bourne waives.
Senator Wickersham. Senator Wickersham waives off. Senator
Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. I appreciate Senator Bourne's amendment and the issues that he's raising. Certainly the cost for administration is a part of the cost for education. And if we can shift and shift that funding to teacher salaries, then we help address a part of the problem that we're dealing with in LB 305. I tend to think very similarly to Senator Wickersham on this issue, and that is that the...one issue that we can't let stand is the "do nothing" aspect. And I think that would be unfair to the teachers. But in particular, it would be unfair to the students. And I think the students are the real people that we're here to discuss and to try and do something to support. And it's those students that concern me. I'm also concerned about the teachers who work with those students. I happen to believe that we have very dedicated, committed teachers, who work very hard. I don't think they just work from 8:00 to 3:00 and then they have weekends and evenings off and can do whatever they want. I happen to know some teachers, and know that they spend a lot of